

SITUATION REPORT NO. 32
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: August 27, 1999 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: On August 27, Devils Lake measured 1,447.06 feet at Creel Bay, near the 1,447.0-foot level that National Weather Service (NWS) hydrologists expect the lake to maintain for the remainder of this year. An August 20 flood statement from the NWS calls for the lake's evaporation rates to keep pace with normal precipitation and inflows from tributaries. Because of recent heavy rain, the lake level at Creel Bay had risen slightly during August 8-21. The daily average lake level was 1,446.88 feet on August 6 compared to 1,447.05 feet on August 19. Hydrologists attribute this increase to rainfall on the lake; inflows from tributaries increased only slightly in response to the rain. During the first 20 days of August, precipitation has been above normal for both cities. The city of Devils Lake recorded 2.83 inches of rain during the first 20 days compared to a normal of 2.07 inches for the month of August. In Edmore, 3.04 inches fell compared to a normal of 2.37 inches for the month of August. The next scheduled outlook for Devils Lake will be issued September 3.

Water from East Devils Lake continues to pond west of the natural divide between East Devils Lake and Stump Lake, and has not yet crossed the divide toward Stump Lake. A NWS flood statement indicates that only limited flows across the divide are expected for lake levels of 1,448 feet or lower for Devils Lake.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) held a public input meeting on August 25 to discuss a proposed relocation of N.D. Highway 1 around Stump Lake. The highway could be threatened by floodwaters if Devils Lake waters flow toward Stump Lake. A plan to elevate the highway may be completed in the year 2000. The road is presently at 1,411.29 feet in elevation.

Program Updates for FEMA-1279-DR-ND

Staff members for the Crisis Counseling Program, directed by the N.D. Department of Human Services, have recorded 9,000 contacts with North Dakota disaster victims. Of victims visited, approximately 50 percent were senior citizens.

Staff for the state Public Assistance Program has delivered \$3.2 million in initial project worksheets to 43 eligible applicants. The program has received a total of 291 applications from eligible 41 counties, 137 cities, 14 electrical cooperatives, 28 school districts, 13 park districts, 22 water resource boards, five Indian reservations, seven state agencies and 24 others to include private non-profit organizations providing essential governmental services.

North Dakota Job Service has received 6,528 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. As of August 26, \$7,800,599 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who lost income because of the disaster.

To date, 8,983 North Dakotans have registered for assistance through FEMA teleregistration center. Of those, 6,996 have applied for Disaster Housing Assistance. To date, FEMA has paid \$9,632,637 in benefits under the Disaster Housing Program. Of that amount, \$3.1 million has been designated for expanded habitability measures designed to mitigate future flood damages. Those measures include interior drain systems, sump pumps, gutters and downspouts, basement fills and land sloping work.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 4,443 applications and approved \$585,203 in benefits. The average grant amounts to approximately \$500.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has sent 7,353 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$3,833,900 in loans as of August 24.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director